



Marvel's latest Sci-Fi movie, "Doctor Strange," reviewed on page 6



Sports Editor, Kyle Benson tours Fenway Park with Red Sox Historian and sportswriter, Gordon Edes



With the presidential election over, where do we go from here? Editorial, page 3

# NECC Observer

Northern Essex Community College

The award-winning student newspaper of Northern Essex Community College • Haverhill and Lawrence, Mass.

[www.observer.necc.mass.edu](http://www.observer.necc.mass.edu) @theneccobserver facebook.com/neccobserver

Fall 2016 • Volume 81 • Issue Number 6 • November, 16 2016

## News Bytes

### STUDY ABROAD SPRING 2017 DEADLINE

The registration deadline for NECC's Spring 2017 study abroad trips to England and Belize is coming up soon on Nov. 30

The Belize trip runs from May 30th to June 10th, and from May 23rd until June 2nd in England. Financial Aid is available for those who qualify. For more info students can contact study-abroad@necc.edu or call the office 617-281-3331

### RESPIRATORY CLUB ANNUAL SCARF DRIVE

NECC's Respiratory Care Club is holding its annual scarf donation drive for Emmaus House emergency shelter for the homeless. The club will be accepting new and gently used men's, women's, and children's scarves in collection boxes that are located in the Dimity and El Hefni buildings

### PUBLIC SAFETY LOG

#### Haverhill Campus

No incidents reported

#### Lawrence Campus

11.6.16 - Unconscious individual at 420 Common St.

11.7.16 - Report filed for man with a gun on Lawrence Campus. College sent out email saying that the Lawrence Police Department had received a call about a threat on the Lawrence campus. "Lawrence police responded to all NECC buildings in Lawrence and found nothing," the email said. "The Lawrence Police Department determined that the threat was not credible."

11.9.16 - Student fell in Annex, chose not to get help and left.

## Local artist on display

BY ELLEN SMALL DAVIS

NECC Newsroom

Iranian artist and current Haverhill resident Shahrzad Shadbash began painting at four years old. She went on to study under the most famous master painters in Iran. An exhibit of her more recent paintings titled "A Window to an Exotic World," will be displayed Wednesday, Nov. 2, through Friday, Dec. 9, in the Linda Hummel-Shea ArtSpace Gallery in Northern Essex Community College's Bentley Library on the Haverhill campus, 100 Elliot St.

There will be an artist's reception and talk on Thursday, Nov. 3, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Both the exhibit and the talk are free and open to the public. The ArtSpace is open during library hours Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Though the 27-year-old has worked in other mediums, including watercolor and colored pencil, graphite pencil, pen, ink, crayons,



"Night of Pomegranates," 10x14in oil paint art space display

charcoal, pastel, gouache, and acrylic paints, this is an exhibit of 13 oil-on-canvas paintings.

"In the beginning I started to explore the world of art with watercolor and colored pencil. Then I continued with graphite pencil, pen, ink, crayons, charcoal, pastel, gouache, acrylic and oil

colors... I started to work on oil painting professionally in 2000," said Shadbash. "Then I gained experience in sketching and working with ink in 2009... Though I work in different styles, most of my works fall within the realm of Realism and a combination of Realism and Impressionistic techniques. My passion for art has no description and will never end because art is an undeniable part of me."

Shadbash who moved to the United States in 2011, holds an associate and bachelor's degree in architecture from Azad Tehran University, Tehran, Iran, and served an apprenticeship under supreme masters of Iran including Mahmoud Farshchian, Aydin Aghdashloo, and Samantha Sabetnia.

She has exhibited in a number of group and solo shows including the Touch Art Gallery in Cambridge and most recently Memorial Hall in Andover.

NECC offers an associate degree in general studies: art which provides a two-year degree with a focus on specific area of the arts, such as fine arts, multi-media, photography, or visual communications.

This exhibit is sponsored by the NECC Art Department and NECC Foundation. For additional information contact Patricia Kidney at pkidney@necc.mass.edu



Shadbash's 18x24in oil on canvas piece, "Flower of Desert"

## Important dates:

Student Senate Meeting  
Wednesday, Nov. 2  
Haverhill Campus A112  
Lawrence Campus L244  
3PM-5PM

Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Awareness Event  
Wednesday, Nov. 16  
Haverhill Sports and Fitness Center  
11AM-1PM

NECC's Music Club's Open Mic Night  
Thursday, Nov. 17  
Haverhill Sports and Fitness Center  
4PM-7PM

Lawrence in the Civil War - A White Fund Presentation  
43 Jackson St, Lawrence  
7PM-8:30PM

Transgender Day of Remembrance Memorial with speaker Donna Spencer Collins  
Friday, Nov. 18  
Haverhill Campus B105  
12PM-1PM

Knights Basketball Home Game  
Saturday, Nov. 19  
Haverhill Sports and Fitness Center  
12PM-2PM

Thanksgiving Recess  
Wednesday, Nov. 23 at 5PM - Sunday, Nov. 27

National Eat a Pie Day  
Thursday, Dec. 1  
Haverhill Sports and Fitness Center  
11:30AM-12:30PM

Book Discussion: The Achievement Habit by Bernard Roth  
Friday, Dec. 2  
Haverhill Library foyer  
9:30AM-10:20AM and

# Editorial

observer.necc.mass.edu @theneccobserver facebook.com/neccobserver

## Coming to terms with opposition

*Right now, we're all struggling to answer the question that's at the forefront of every American's mind, "Where do we go from here?"*

By CLEO BRIGHAM  
Editor in Chief

It's been a week since voters learned the outcome of this year's presidential election. For some this is a time of triumph, while others see the results as terrifying. The nation has been split on so many issues this election season, but many can agree that this is a time when we must stick together as American citizens more than ever.

The Monday before Election Day, a few friends and I had the opportunity to travel to the University of New Hampshire to hear President Barack Obama speak at

his last appearance at a political rally as Commander in Chief. While standing in the crowd, less than twenty feet away from our current leader, my friends and I were almost unable to contain our excitement.

Even if you don't agree with Obama's policies or politics, anyone who has witnessed him speak has to admit that he's one of the most powerful public speakers of our time.

There's an undeniable energy that Barack Obama is capable of manifesting within a room. The feeling you get from hearing him is palpable. You can feel his electricity from his words flowing from him into you as well as those around you in the audience.

Although the outcome of this election wasn't what he was initially rallying for, the president made some excellent points that would have been to this situation no matter who the American people chose to lead them.

While entertaining the crowd with anecdotes from his days of campaigning for his own presidential elections in 2008, he stressed the importance of self

governing, stating that it's possible for one voice to change a room.

While addressing the crowd he added, "You hold the most important office in a democracy. It depends on you. Even when the odds are steep, even when the road is long it's been ordinary people who have made the difference."

This statement is especially empowering for those who feel they have lost hope in our political system and truly believe that their voice isn't valuable and doesn't make an impact.

Exactly a week later, I decided to sit in on the Haverhill campus' debriefing discussion about the election results. Although emotions were running high, the group maintained a respectful and open dialogue by adhering to ground rules that would be beneficial to anyone engaging in debating controversial topics such as trying to speak from experience rather than generalizing any social groups. I feel that as a culture this is something many of us forget to do. We've been conditioned to compartmental-

ize people into labels, but in turn this dehumanizes them, causing others to focus on one aspect of a person rather than recognizing the full spectrum of their individuality.

The goal of this brief discussion wasn't to persuade or attack anyone, but rather to focus on understanding, stressing that community growth depends on the inclusion of every unique voice.

Many attendees expressed their fear of change in our political system, some even expressing shock stating that they don't know or understand the people around them with opposing views.

This is a huge conflict, as many pointed out that in order to work together for our greater good, it's important to rise above one's political party to communicate in order to resolve a lot of the conflict we face in our society today.

Overall, the group discussed the importance of becoming informed, even on topics you may not personally agree with. IT employee, Rick Ingham stated that as news consumers, we can't

just rely on social media to get all of our information. We must go outside the news feed algorithms and find things out for ourselves in order to stay informed.

This whole election season, we've seen all sides working to aggressively shove their agenda down the throats of those who oppose them. As we can see now, these tactics are less than effective. It was refreshing to see everyone come together after this high drama election with a real desire to step outside our own little worlds to better understand those around us. In my opinion, what we need to do now as a country is to take a step back. We must adopt a willingness to accept those who are different from us, and ultimately take the time to listen to one another rather than tearing someone's beliefs down just because you might not agree with them. It's worthwhile to approach things from multiple perspectives to see something objectively in order to make progress. We just might find that the people who oppose us aren't as different from us as we originally thought.

### NECC Observer

*The award-winning student newspaper of Northern Essex Community College*

Room 119, Opportunity Works building,  
671 Kenoza St. Haverhill, MA 01830

Newsroom 978.556.3027  
Adviser 978.556.3397

Advertising 978.556.3397  
observer@necc.mass.edu

The NECC Observer reserves the right to edit, condense and refuse all submissions.

#### Fall 2015 Observer Staff

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF : Cleo Brigham  
COPY EDITOR : Alex Peterson  
OPINION EDITOR : Joel Johnston  
NEWS EDITOR : Now Hiring  
FEATURES EDITOR : Travis Barrett  
A&E EDITOR : Theodore Beauparlant  
SPORTS EDITOR : Kyle Benson  
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR : Bailey Torrisi  
WEB EDITOR : Jessica Laycock  
STAFF WRITER : Sarah Desiderio  
CIRCULATION : Observer Staff  
FACULTY ADVISER : Mary Jo Shafer

Have you taken Journalism I? Are you taking it now?  
Would you like to be on the Observer staff? Then submit your resume to [observer@necc.mass.edu](mailto:observer@necc.mass.edu).

#### Publication Schedule

| Issue | Publication Date | Ad/Copy Deadline |
|-------|------------------|------------------|
| #2    | Sept. 19         | Sept. 14         |
| #3    | Oct. 3           | Sept. 28         |
| #4    | Oct. 17          | Oct. 12          |
| #5    | Oct. 31          | Oct. 26          |
| #6    | Nov. 14          | Nov. 9           |
| #7    | Nov. 28          | Nov. 23          |

We welcome letters and articles from our readers. You can submit via email, and must include your name and phone number for verification. Write "Letter" or "Article to Editor" in the subject line so we notice it right away.

Send your letters to [observer@necc.mass.edu](mailto:observer@necc.mass.edu)

We try to publish all letters we receive, but we reserve the right to edit or reject those we receive.

The NECC Observer is a member of the Associated Collegiate Press, College Media Advertisers Inc., the Colombia Scholastic Press Association, and the New England Press Association.

### Roaming Reporter

## How stressfull has the semester been?



"It's an overload of classes and work."

CAILYN COLLINS

Mechanical Engineering Major



"I'm juggling things well."

JORDAN MILLIEN

Liberal Arts Major



"I feel good and confident going forward."

GRANT BELINO

Philosophy Major



"I have too much on my plate, I need a vacation."

SAMANTHA SAHLAS

Psychology Major



"100% stressfull, I'm an electrical engineer."

RANDY CAMASSO

Electrical Engineering Major



"Work and school has made things twice as stressfull."

CASSANDRA ELLARD

Psychology Major

# Opinion

[observer.necc.mass.edu](http://observer.necc.mass.edu)

[@theneccobserver](https://twitter.com/theneccobserver)

[facebook.com/neccobserver](https://facebook.com/neccobserver)

## Celebrity endorsement creates local controversy

*Tom Brady's interest in politics brings hate.*

BY JOEL JOHNSTON  
OPINION EDITOR

The election is officially over, but the conversation hasn't stopped. Celebrity endorsements were a huge storyline in the 2016 election. However, one celebrity endorsement has some people in Massachusetts up in arms. Tom Brady and Bill Belichick are two of the most loved public figures around. Some are apparently turned off by their political choice and are turning off the television, or at least the football games. This has made headlines lately, for some loyal fans it is too much to support a player who supports Donald Trump. That type of thinking is the problem. Everyone has a right to voice their opinion, and that includes athletes like Tom Brady. Although Massachusetts is extremely liberal and most voted against now President-elect Donald Trump, half the country voted for him and

it is something some Patriots fans may have to learn to stomach. That being said, not all Patriots fans share this exact sentiment, as second year NECC student and football fanatic Justin Lucciano had a slightly different view from other Patriots fans, "It doesn't bother me really, I'm not a Trump fan, but everyone has a right to vote for who they want, unless it's a silly write in joke vote people should vote for who they want."

The ironic part is almost all other celebrities endorsed former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Actors, musicians and the famous are known to generally lean left and because of this there is a level of surprise and hate you receive if you are famous and come out representing the right, in this case Donald Trump. Everyone from LeBron James, to Bon Jovi to Beyonce came out in support of the Democratic nominee. In Massachusetts it wouldn't be any surprise if any actor and actress came out in support of Hillary Clinton. There can be an argument made that

there is a level of arrogance in general for celebrities to voice who they are voting for. NECC student Marc Scaglione said as much, "I don't really understand why celebrities get so involved. Like I do, but I don't really pay attention to them. If anything it's interesting to see who votes for who." Unless they are some sort of political celebrity, they probably are not as connected to the majority of Americans as well as you and I. The reality is that most celebrities know next to nothing about our nation's politics and being rich and famous is the only reason their opinions are given any extra merit. Also the fact that they are rich and don't work like the common man does, makes it odd that people even give their opinions a second glance. However, the fact is people do put stock behind celebrity endorsement and who is a bigger celebrity than Tom Brady in New England?

Donald Trump used the friendly shout out from Tom Brady and Bill Belichick at his speech right before the election at UNH in NH. If you want to

get a message across to people in a college town in New England you would probably be more inclined to use a sports figure. Heck, if you want to get a message across anywhere in New England you're better off using a sports celebrity. For example, David Ortiz's speech after the Boston bombings.

If you are looking for a measuring stick for success around here look no further than the Patriots. They have dominated the NFL over the past decade and a half and with the NFL ratings beating out almost everything else these days, the Patriots are some of the biggest celebrities around.

They also have some of the most loyal fans. Everyone around here is familiar with Deflategate and fans have stuck with them through two separate cheating scandals. If anything fans turning on Tom Brady for his political choice shows how divisive this election really has been. Everyone needs to remember that these are our friends, our neighbors, our families and in this case our football stars.

Sometimes we have differing views and that is part of what makes this country great.

## Free TV station access for NECC students

*Volunteer and access thousands of dollars in equipment*

BY JOEL JOHNSTON

All it takes is a little paperwork and you are on your way into the world of media. Free access is an option for any NECC student who signs up. It is usually reserved for just Haverhill residents. Many people are unaware that each town has their own local tv station that is tax funded. Therefore it is open for public use. You can actually air what you want on tv and no one can tell you no! Political correctness is a loose term in the world of public access tv because technically it is owned by the citizens of the town. It is a very creative environment and you can use it for whatever you want, within reason obviously. The unique part of HC Media is Haverhill funds it better than most other towns, which means more options for you.

Even better is if you're a NECC student you're welcome to become a member as well for free.

If you have any media aspirations tv shows, podcast, film or editing it is definitely worth your time to sign up and gain access, they always appreciate the help filling their air waves. Along with that you can gain valuable information and skills if you want to learn. Located just down the road from campus, on Elm Street in Haverhill HC Media is very close by as well.

NECC also offers one class at HC Media called video field productions.

In this class you get to learn about using their expensive field camera's that can shoot in 4k and how to put together a film.

The building is pretty old and broken down to be perfectly honest.

However they are building a new location in downtown Haverhill at Harbor place with updated options. If any of this interests you for any reason, definitely go down and check them out.

This paper is your voice, too!  
We want to see what you have to say.

... ooo ...

You can reach us at:

978-556-3027

[observer@necc.mass.edu](mailto:observer@necc.mass.edu)

Room 119

Opportunity Works building  
Haverhill campus

# News

observer.necc.mass.edu @theneccobserver facebook.com/neccobserver

## Advice for transfer students from NECC alum

*Tips for transfer students looking to find "dream school"*

By SARAH DESIDERIO  
Staff Writer

For most of the students, Northern Essex Community College is just a stepping stone on the way to bigger and better things.

NECC helps students discover who they are and helps them figure out what they want to do with their future. Some people already know what they want to do with the rest of their lives, and some people, however, end up changing their major multiple times, ending up with multiple electives that they can't use. However, the principle still stands, if you transfer to a 4-year school after Northern Essex or if you just go straight into a 4-year school after high school, there are a few basic pieces of advice to help students make the transition from one school to the other.

Tarah MacGregor is a Northern Essex Community College graduate of 2016 in Liberal Arts.

She is currently studying at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Fla., with a major in marine science: biology track major and minors in sustainability

and women/gender studies.

MacGregor offered some help and advice on how to pick your "dream school," like she did.

When asked why she was drawn to Eckerd, she initially wasn't even interested. She had her eyes on New College in Florida, but found herself unhappy when visiting. She followed a recommendation from biology professor Ken Thomas and her mom that Eckerd may be a good fit. The community feeling is what drew her in the most. It reminded her of NECC with small courses and lots of one on one attention.

She really loved the emphasis on the outdoors. It's a barefoot campus with outdoor classrooms and frequent labs or other activities around campus. She said there are many different opportunities there to fit every student. There's a place for everyone.

The only downside was the diversity she said is lacking there immensely. There's a clear student majority that can sometimes create awkwardness or lack of exposure, she said.

Eckerd was the only college she applied to in the end, because she knew that was where she wanted to go. She didn't see

a point in wasting money on other applications. She did feel that if she wasn't as confident on her acceptance to the school, she would've applied elsewhere.

She knew before applying based on her visit last summer and interview over winter break that this was where she was destined to be.

She wouldn't have picked any other school if she had the option. The community is everything she wanted out of a 4 year school and the professors are out of this world. "I know I'm academically in an incredible place and doing it with like minded peers," MacGregor said.

When looking for a school, she wanted a place that felt right. She didn't end up where she thought she would initially, and would have never known had she not visited.

The choice for a 4 year program wasn't what was planned. She learned that she's better off waiting to see what opportunities come and focusing on now rather than obsessively designing her future, and recommends others do the same.

When looking for a school, a good international studies program, name recognition in



Photo by Northern Essex Community College: Honors Experience  
Tarah MacGregor

the field of major, location that would further opportunities in the focused field and a place that she could see herself living at were the main things on her mind.

When looking for schools to apply to, she used a website called Noodle that lets you search for schools based on many factors and even tells you your chances of getting accepted. From there she made plans to visit and the rest fell into place. Noodle gets you thinking about things you may not normally consider, but

are nevertheless important.

Distance depends on who you are, for some Florida is too far, for others not enough. For her, distance wasn't something high on the list. "It's more about prioritization and what personally matters to you."

Her main advice to anyone looking to transfer is to visit first. Go and see the dorms, meet the professors, ask questions, feel what being there is like and trust your gut. Don't rule out places you've never heard of!

SPRING COURSES  
START JANUARY 18  
AT NECC IN HAVERHILL



**Pursue a UMass Lowell Degree at NECC in Haverhill**

**You can earn your Bachelor's Degree in Psychology, Criminal Justice or Business Administration in Haverhill, MA.\***

Registration is now available for the following UMass Lowell courses that will be held this Spring at Northern Essex Community College in Haverhill. Spring Haverhill classes start January 18, 2017.

- Community Based Corrections
- Criminal Justice Data Analysis
- Crime and Mental Illness
- Human Resources Management
- New Product and Service Management
- Operations Management
- Psychology and Law
- Industrial / Organizational Psychology
- Research III: Laboratory
- Seminar in Clinical Psychology: Autism

\*Students have the option to complete some required courses online.

QUESTIONS?  
Call 978-934-2474

VISIT US ONLINE  
continuinged.uml.edu/haverhill



# News

observer.necc.mass.edu @theneccobserver facebook.com/neccobserver

## Theater professor and director retires

*Jim Murphy is retiring after 25 years at NECC*

By SARAH DESIDERIO  
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, Nov. 1, Jim Murphy, the coordinator of Theater at Northern Essex, was interviewed about his experience with the theater department before he retires. At the end of the semester, Murphy will have a very well deserved retirement with his wife, Susan Sanders, who both have been with the Northern Essex theater department for the past 25 years.

They have done four to five plays every year, so about 100 to 125 total. This includes a fall semester, a spring semester, and a children's theater production. For 15 years they have also done their own version of A Christmas Carol.

The way he said he picked plays to perform was for how long a typical student is at North-

ern Essex. They're typically here for four semesters, so he tried to pick four different genres so that each student gets taste for different genres.

Murphy said he did more of the directing, casting, and coordinating role, while Sanders focused on the visual elements, like set design, props, and costumes.

Because the normal theater is under construction, they had to look for a new theater. They were looking for a new space for over a year and then came across the Universalist Unitarian Church in Haverhill.

They found it was a great fit and the church was "incredibly generous and fantastic to work with."

Murphy said working with them was definitely a two birds with one stone type of situation, the theater program helped them with their goal in becoming a more prominent figure in the community.

When searching for a new venue last spring, Murphy knew

that there would have to be limitations with props and pieces of set design. Walking into the church for the first time, "Twelfth Night" and "Measure for Measure" immediately came to mind because of "the feelings that the space gave off and the way the area was already set up." After debating and consideration, "Measure for Measure" eventually won out because "it was a new piece, something I haven't played with yet."

Having never worked with this particular cast before, it was definitely a new experience for the pair, but nothing too far away from what they were used to doing.

He wants to go back into doing freelance work, acting and directing; most likely working with the Actors Equity Association.

"I've truly been very fortunate to be able to work with Susan and have such wonderful kids to work with," Murphy included as a last goodbye.

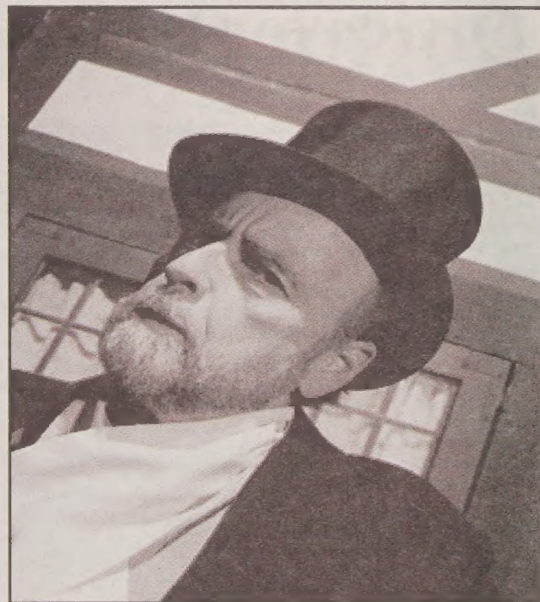


Photo by NECC Newsroom

Theater professor, Jim Murphy in costume as, "Scrooge," in NECC's 2014 production of, "A Christmas Carol."

## "Measure for Measure" cast tell all

*Top Notch Theater members reflect*

By SARAH DESIDERIO  
Staff Writer

The past two weekends the Northern Essex Community College Top Notch Players presented William Shakespeare's, "Measure for Measure." After all curtains had been drawn and all the lights shut off, I had the opportunity to sit down and talk with four of the main characters, all of whom said they had an amazing time being a part of the production.

Leah Mahoney, a journalism major, played Isabella, a very "black and white, type A, nun," who had her morals questioned and put to test throughout the whole play to save her brother's life, and in the end her perseverance won out. Mahoney said, "You have to admire a girl who sticks to her guns." Mahoney ended up in the role by accident; as part of her Shakespeare class one afternoon she was told she had to go to the play audition that night, and within a few hours she was the second lead character. Even though she "doesn't know how she got all wrapped up into this," it was obvious the way that she talked that she had a blast even though it was "hard to get into her emotional state, especially when the Duke says her brother is dead. Getting amped up enough so you can reach all the characters' emo-

tional mountains and valleys, but cool enough so you don't forget your lines."

The Duke, played by Mike Gulezian, didn't have as much of a difficult time reaching these mountains and valleys since he is a theater major and has been in many plays over the past few years and therefore brought a lot of theater knowledge with him. Gulezian said that he loves the whole process of theater from beginning to end because "the magic of theater is it's different every time."

He also said that "what is happening in front of you, is never going to happen again in the same way."

Of course, not everything for Gulezian came easy. "Reading the lines and seeing what was true and what wasn't, since [the Duke] lies a lot, figuring out what his true intentions were, his underlying motivation," that was the difficult part.

Of course, maybe with a little more Shakespeare experience, being more familiar with the language, can make it a bit easier, like Benjamin Beverage, who played Pompey with the Top Notch Players. Beverage gained the experience of 7 Shakespeare plays from working with All the World's a Stage Player's, which has shown very brightly in his portrayal of his character, who is "quite literally a pimp to Mistress Overdone."

"He is very comfortable [in his own skin, even though] he never pretends he is and rolls with it," Beverage said.

When watching Beverages' performance, you automatically think that he is a theater major who has done many comedic roles, but in reality, he is a history major, completely new to the comedic world. Something he has reminded himself that's kept it easier is that "anyone can be an actor, and anyone can play any part [with the right mindset]" and "The moments where the actor can become the character," are the special moments.

Someone who has had over 8 years of acting in over 100 plays and is familiar with these moments is Hannah Heckman-McKenna, a theater and lab-science major who played Lucio, someone who "likes to stir the pot for fun and his amusement and has people in his life only while he can use them." Even though she is not a backstabber, this role is in her top three.

Something that all cast members made very clear, especially Heckman-McKenna, was that everyone loved the cast and they all had amazing chemistry together, with a huge helping from

their director, Danielle Howard. Thanks to Howard, "what other characters gave my character, made playing mine more fun. The chemistry was amazing," says Heckman-McKenna.

Gulezian added, "When the characters get along, the actors will be better, the characters will be more comfortable, then the chemistry will be better."

Special Congratulations to Top Notch Players Mike Gulezian, and Benjamin Joyall for being nominated to attend the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

### Correction

In the Oct. 19 issue of the Observer, there were several people misidentified in the photo captions that ran with the front page story about the Choral Cabaret. On the front page the picture on the bottom right is Liza Lynehan performing "Glitter in the Air," by Pink. On page 6, the top left photo is Bonnie Surowiec playing her "Breathe No More" piece. Also on page 6 is Son Nguyen, singing the Adele song, "Hiding My Heart."

**WANTED:**

⚡ **WRITERS** ⚡

**ARTISTS**

**PHOTOGRAPHERS**

⚡ **DREAMERS** ⚡

**CREATORS**

APPROACHES & ON REQUEST  
SHOULD BE APPROVED BY  
DEC. 9, 2016  
REMOVE AFTER

**SUBMIT TO:**

**PARNASSUS**

NECC's Award Winning Literary Arts Magazine

**We need: Fiction, Poetry, Creative Non Fiction,  
Art, and Photography!**

**=Deadline: Thursday Dec. 1st=**

Submission Box and forms can be found in the HOW lobby  
Or Submit Online! [www.parnassuslitmag.com](http://www.parnassuslitmag.com)  
More Info: email faculty advisor Patrick Lechell: [plechell@necc.mass.edu](mailto:plechell@necc.mass.edu)

# Arts & Entertainment

www.observer.necc.mass.edu @theneccobserver facebook.com/neccobserver

## Doctor Strange: Marvel's Fantasia

By  
THEODORE BEAUPARLANT

According to comic historian Brad W. Wright, Theosophy and surrealistic art are said to be largely responsible for the sublimation of the Doctor Strange comic books received from the Psychedelic youth culture coming to prominence in the 1960's. The beat generation's fascination with eastern philosophy and surrealistic art inspired Stan Lee and Steve Ditko to create a comic that was perfectly synchronized with these countercultural trends in art and culture prior to them becoming more established in the later 1960s. Director Scott Derrickson certainly nods at the role Doctor Strange played for people in college during the early sixties through his use of early Pink Floyd on the soundtrack, and cameo appearance by Stan Lee, where he is sitting on a bus reading the "Doors of Perception" by Aldous Huxley, "that's hilarious!" he says laughing to himself. All jokes about hippies and counterculture aside, Derrickson as well as producer Kevin Feige and writer John Spaights delivered a reimagining of this lesser known Marvel hero that will surely have audience members interested in science and religion, though unfamiliar with this character, rushing home to learn more about their role in the Marvel Universe. Indeed, Derrickson and Feige delivered an installment to the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) which is among the most philosophical and aesthetically stunning re-

leased to date.

The story begins in Kathmandu, Nepal where sorcerer Kaecilius, played by Mads Mikkelsen, steals an ancient text from the secret compound known as Kamar-Taj. Kamar-Taj is home to the Ancient One, prime sorcerer and protector of earth from mystical foes, played by Tilda Swinton (best known for her role as the White Witch in *Chronicles of Narnia*), and is also where she teaches students the mystical arts, including Kaecilius.

The story then shifts to a operating room where the audience is introduced to Dr. Stephen Strange, played by Benedict Cumberbatch (*Black Mass*, 2014). Strange is shown in the following scenes to be boastful, conceited, and self-important. Though a highly intelligent and capable neurosurgeon he is clearly more interested in fame and honors than saving lives. His life is turned upside down when he gets in a serious car accident which results in the near-loss of his hands.

The nerve damage to his hands was severe, however, Strange nonetheless pursues every possible surgery to no avail. Though through a series of encounters, he learns of a person who recovered from an even worse spinal injury through an unknown alternative procedure. Strange tracks this person down and when prompted reveal that they were healed at a compound in Kathmandu known as Kamar-Taj.

Strange leaves for Nepal shortly after though after arriv-

ing in Kathmandu he is forced to wander aimlessly for some time. Eventually while mumbling the name of the compound to passersby in a state of pure desperation he is overheard by Mordo, played by Chiwetel Ejiofor (*Twelve Years a Slave*, 2013). Mordo takes him to meet the Ancient One, to whom he pleads his case. She says she can help him, though after explaining her methodology Strange begins to mock her and as a result she casts him out. Afterwards, Strange comes to regret this decision and begs for a second chance. After some deliberation, the Ancient One agrees to take him on as a student.

Strange excels as a student and shows an insatiable desire for knowledge, which at times puts him at odds with the Ancient One though even she cannot doubt his promise. Eventually his mentor Mordo informs Strange that the work he does at Kamar-Taj is not only healing his hands but also preparing him for combat against dark mystic forces. After learning this he is hesitant though eventually decides to aid in this effort. Shortly after this decision Kaecilius appears once more and for the last 45 minutes of the film Strange, Mordo, and the Ancient One find themselves in near constant battle from Greenwich Village to Hong Kong, with the fate of planet earth hanging in the balance of each encounter.

The cinematography and design are true to the original artwork wherever applicable, and the CGI overall is the among the greatest of any Marvel movie yet produced. The cosmic and surreal aesthetic of the comic book was

certainly retained and even enriched via CGI. The first prime example of the comics aesthetic origins occurs about 30 minutes in when Doctor Strange meets the Ancient One, or Prime Sorcerer. The ancient one is the ultimate guardian of planet earth whose job is to protect it from mystical foes from other galaxies and dimensions. Their meeting is nothing short of surreal and captures the essence of the psychedelic aspects of the comic book.

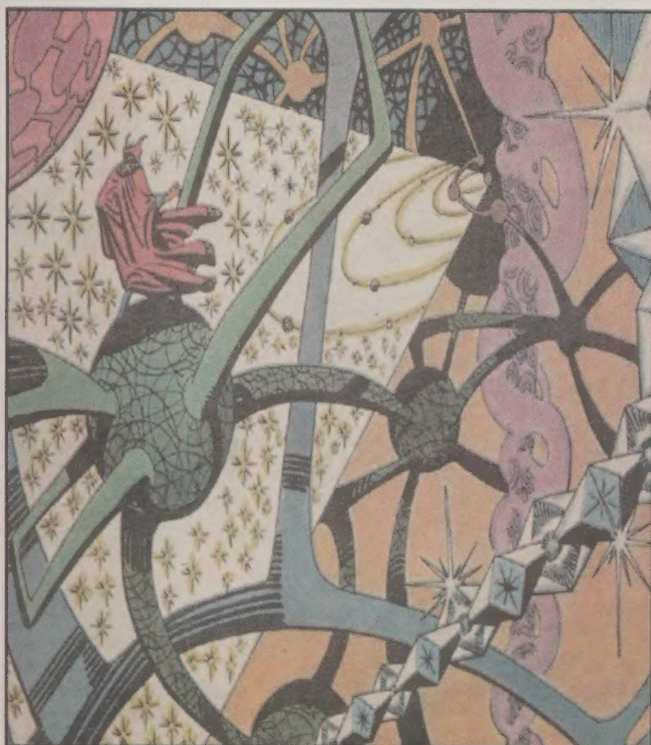
In this scene the Doctor is introduced to the concepts of astral projection, mirror universes, and self-healing through "the re-orientation of the spirit with the body." However, at first Doctor Strange is unconvinced and accuses the Ancient One of wasting his time, to which she responds by projecting his astral form into other dimensions in effect sending him on a cosmological crash course that is as visually mind blowing and captivating as it is surreal. Scenes which take place in other dimensions such as the mirror dimension are stunning in their own right, featuring geometric reformation and fractalization of architecture that make similar scenes from such films as *Inception* pale in comparison.

While highly spiritual at its base, the story does abide some fundamental concepts of physics, specifically those of spacetime. For instance when Strange begins to tamper with time travel in rising action of the film, his mentor frantically warns of the dangers of this practice citing spatial paradoxes and time-loops as the main causes for concern. Philosophers have indeed speculated about time travel quite a lot. The philosopher David Lewis actually compiled a list of potential paradoxes which time travellers might be faced with,

and interestingly enough the paradox which Strange initiates in a last ditch effort to save the day at the end of the movie is on that Lewis' list. This example is one of many in which Derrickson did his physics homework, or perhaps hired someone to do it for him...

In reality it was the latter, for the film Derrickson worked closely with Astrophysicist Adam Frank, consulting him on all things related to physics and philosophy. With the help of Frank, Derrickson, like Ditko before him, managed to make the MCU into a multiverse through his inclusion of mirror dimensions. What other directors do with these new and infinite universe is still to be seen, but fans can rest assured that there are still more Doctor Strange movies to come and therefore an indefinite amount of interdimensional splendor still awaits.

Speaking of interdimensional splendor, remember that fourth dimension, time, we are stuck in? Well with the aid of CGI Derrickson also undertook a feat of film which is at odds with the very nature of motion picture: the display of moving images in the same frame which bear an inverse time relationship to one another. Confused? Imagine for a moment heroes fighting villains in the street while at the same time everything and everyone around them is moving in a reverse time lapse sequence. This may sound awkward, and that's because cinematography here violates the very thing that gives film its coherence- people and things existing in the same place at the same time, over time- but in fact the scene is completely succinct and thus signifies a remarkable feat of both cinematography and CGI.



Art By Steve Ditko

Doctor Strange, Strange Tales (1963)



Photo Courtesy of Entertainment Weekly

Doctor Strange (2016)

## Campus Life

observer.necc.mass. @theneccobserver

facebook.com/neccobserver

# Meet the professors of Northern Essex

*Isabelle Gagne introduces you to the life of a Canadian*

By BAILEY TORRISSI  
Campus Life Editor

Isabelle Gagne, a psychology professor and part of the behavioral science department, is a Canadian native. Born and raised in Montreal, she enjoys yoga and hanging out with her three kids. In January she'll have been a teacher here for 10 years. She got her Bachelor degree in Psychology at the University of Montreal, and her Masters at Sherbrooke University. She just got back from being in Canada for 6 months with her kids, who attended school there for a while.

**Teaches:** Introduction to Psychology, Developmental Psychology 1 in the Spring, Child Psychology in the Spring.

**1. Best and worst part of living in Canada?**

The best is definitely the multiculturalism you see in Canada. There is so many different people

from different places that interact with each other. The worst is the cold weather, especially during the winters.

**2. What are 5 words to describe yourself?**

Courageous, caring, authentic, passionate and generous.

**3. If you could change anything about the world, what would you change?**

True equal opportunity in general, between genders, race, ethnicity, class, etc.

**4. If you could travel anywhere in the world where would you go?**

If you buy me a plane ticket to anywhere I'd absolutely go. I've been to Europe, but I'd probably want to explore Asia or the Middle East if I ever got the chance. Also, North Africa maybe to go on a safari. Maybe somewhere like India, or China, or Japan. Maybe even Nepal.

**5. Favorite activity in gym class growing up?**

Nothing. I hated gym class.

Especially being the handball goalie.

**6. What is your favorite jelly bean flavor?**

Pomegranate- it's Canadian.

**7. If you could live in any time period, when would you go?**

Now, it's a good time to be alive. We have a lot of freedom, especially for women we have a lot of better rights. We also live in a new world of technology that would be weird living without.

**8. If you had to give up 1 of your 5 senses which would it be?**

My hearing, it would be nice and quiet. I have 3 kids, it's nice to have quiet time.

**9. What's your favorite color?**

Yellow.

**10. If you could be in any tv show or movie which would you like to be on?**

Cupcake Wars with my daughter Casandra, she loves to bake.



Photo by Bailey Torrisi

Isabelle Gagne, professor of Psychology, poses on the Lawrence Campus.

## NECCO clubs

*PTK and Amnesty International*

By BAILEY TORRISSI  
Campus Life Editor

Andy Morse, a longtime History professor here at NECC, is the head of two different clubs and organizations at Northern Essex, Phi Theta Kappa honor society and the Amnesty International club. Once a teacher at a detention center, he has come to Northern Essex and made a big impact.

Phi Theta Kappa is a

club and also a nationwide honor society that provides scholarships, awards, and recognition to college students.

To become a part of the honor society, you have to have a 3.5 GPA and at least 12 credit hours. You pay a one time \$65 fee, and become a part of the society for life.

The purpose of the society is to help with scholarships, and removing a some money off your tuition bill. Colleges like to see that you're a part of it, and also it can help when you apply

for jobs after you graduate from college. They do a lot of activities like bake sales, things with Emmaus House, guest speakers and other events for good causes. They meet every Monday at 2:15 p.m. in B107.

Amnesty International is a club that promotes and protects human rights organization. They publicize human rights causes through bake sales, panel discussion, different speakers, etc.

They just had a bake sale for the Save the Children foundation. They meet every Friday at noon in E170. They are meeting together to discuss upcoming events for the club.

Amnesty International is a worldwide club. You can look online at <http://www.amnestyusa.org/> for more information about what Amnesty International does.

The school's club also works with the Students for a Democratic Society, a club run by Stephen Slaner. They raise community awareness, and explore the injustices of our society.

If you have interest in joining the Amnesty International club or Phi Theta Kappa, e-mail Andy Morse at [amorse@necc.mass.edu](mailto:amorse@necc.mass.edu).



**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**

Photo Courtesy

The worldwide club, Amnesty International, share a desire to help others around the world.



What are you  
doing for  
winter break?

**Take an online winter course  
at Fitchburg State University**

**Dec. 27, 2016 - Jan. 15, 2017**

Catch up or get ahead without leaving home

— ALL WINTER COURSES ARE ONLINE!



**FITCHBURG STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

GRADUATE AND  
CONTINUING EDUCATION  
[www.fitchburgstate.edu/gce](http://www.fitchburgstate.edu/gce)

REGISTER TODAY

[fitchburgstate.edu/gce/reg](http://fitchburgstate.edu/gce/reg)  
978-665-4196

Information Session: January 4  
[fitchburgstate.edu/gce/infosession](http://fitchburgstate.edu/gce/infosession)  
(snow date January 5)

# Champion of the Game Room brings big crowd

## *Rise in popularity has created an enthusiastic and fun atmosphere in the Sports and Fitness building causing plenty of foot traffic*

BY TRAVIS BARRETT

Features Editor

From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., every weekday students at NECC have been engaged and enthralled by the new game tournament, called Champion of the Game Room in the Sports and Fitness Center. Since the construction of Spurk went underway, students have found themselves occupying their free time in the rec-room. Any student is welcome to sign-up for the tournament, just go look for Maureen Saliba and she will get you started. Saliba was the brains of the operations and apparently for quite sometime. "It's been brewing in my mind for a few years now."

The reason for starting the tournament was to "get students to meet new people." Saliba thought it would be best to have students interject their ideas for the tournament.

Matt Day, an engineering student, helped organize and create a strong structure for the tournament. Day, already a frequent member of the rec room, wanted other students to make the same connections he did when he first started attending NECC.

He alerted students in his classes, informing them about the upcoming tournament and the stipulations of it. He expressed to me about the camaraderie between the students and how "not a lot of people know what we do here" and that more students should be taking advantage of the opportunities in front of them.

The tournament accompanies all the activities in the rec room including, pool, ping pong, foosball, and cricket (darts). Each player in the tournament is placed against every player who is signed up. They'll play a best two out of three match-up in every game one time. You are only allowed to play a game with the same person once. With each win the player gains twenty points and with each loss the player loses twenty points. After everyone has played everyone in every game, the one with the most points wins. I know this is a little confusing. Saliba says "it's contingent that everybody plays everybody at everything." She wants to showcase everyone's talents and get them doing something new. The winner of the tournament will earn two \$15

gift cards for Lazer Craze and the second and third place winners will receive smaller rewards not decided yet.

The tournament has been a hit amongst students in the rec room. Courtney Spera, a liberal arts major, has been "kicking foosball butt" since she started in the tournament. She has "gained new skills" in not only foosball but has enjoyed the analytical aspect of pool. The tournament gives more reason to stay connected as a small open rec room community. She says "it's been good fun and everyone wants to win," so competitive nature isn't too hard to find. Overall, Spera says "it has brought a new sense of community" to the rec room.

The competitive nature of the tournament is what's drawing newcomers to the rec room. Grant Belino, a philosophy major, told me that it's a "fun competitive atmosphere." He feels it's "exciting and fun" for everyone and if you don't do well in one activity you probably strive in another. The best thing that's come from it, Bellino says, is that much more "socializing" has been generated. He says most stu-

“

It has brought a new sense of community

- Courtney Spera

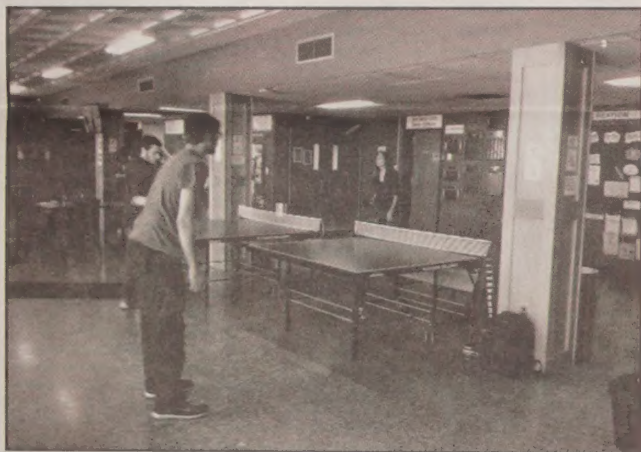
”

dents are into all the games and all share a skill for at least one of the games, which has brought out good competition. Belino would like to see new tournaments added for other sports like basketball or football, but thinks this is a great jumping off point.

For some students it can be hard to get involved in the games because of scheduling conflicts. This was one of the concerns Saliba had when drawing up ideas, but overall it hasn't been an issue for most students. Erin Thibodeau, a liberal arts student says, "it's tough with my schedule, most games happen Tuesdays and Thursdays so it's hard for me." This is something that's always going to be an issue because the hours of the rec room

aren't changing from 11a.m. to 1p.m. and neither are students schedules.

The most important outcome from everything has been the recent surge in attendance and sociability from everyone. Students have been looking for a new outlet to spend their time with Spurk under construction and the rec room has slowly transitioned to that. "A lot of people are playing new games and meeting new people," Saliba said on what she is proud of the most. As for the future she says she "would like to build on the idea" as much as she can so any students with any ideas let her know. She's "going to tweak it" as things develop, but for the moment it's a work in progress and off to a great start.



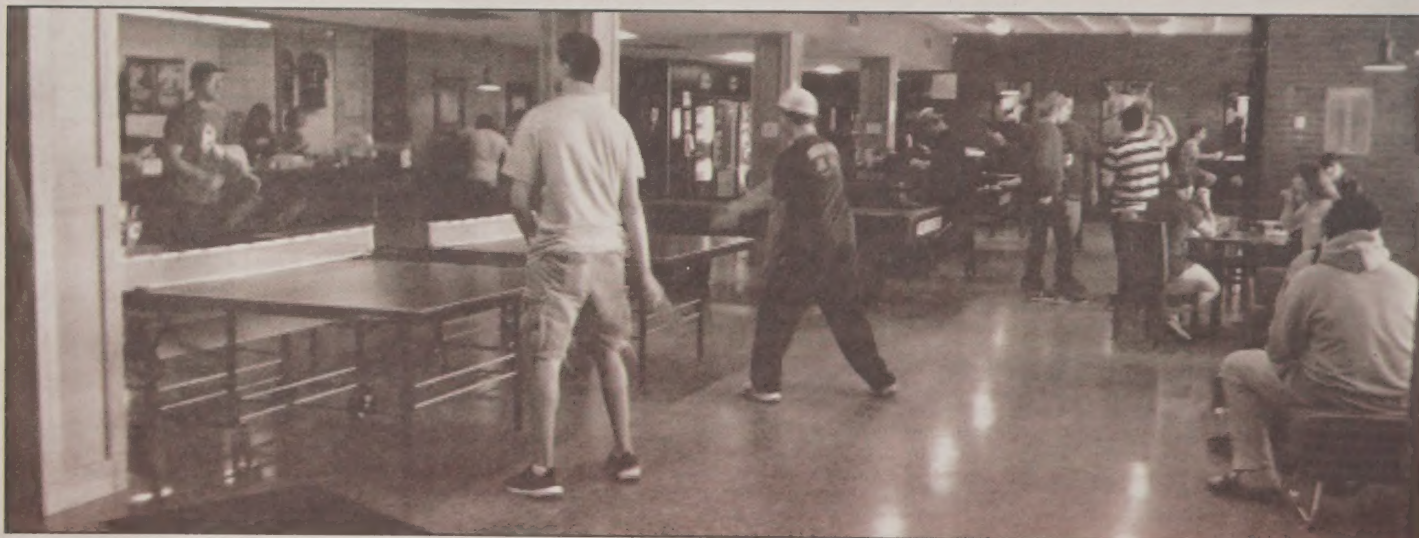
Ping pong being played in the rec room.

Photo by Travis Barrett



Students enjoying pool.

Photo by Travis Barrett



Packed rec room brings new excitement for students

Photo by Travis Barrett

# More

## Develop ways to cope with stress

By NECC ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Stress management group offered

**Drop in coping skills/ stress management group,**  
Mondays from 11:30-12:15

Starting Nov. 14 through Dec. 5 Dmitry L144

This group is facilitated by Counseling & Psychological Services.

The counseling Center at NECC is here to support the personal, social and academic development of students, according to a statement from the center.

All services are confidential and free to all NECC students. To schedule an appointment call 978-556-3730 or email [counseling@necc.mass.edu](mailto:counseling@necc.mass.edu). The center welcomes requests for sign language interpreting and other access requests. Contact the Counseling & Psychological Services at 978-556-3730 or email [counseling@necc.mass.edu](mailto:counseling@necc.mass.edu) to make a request.

According to the 2015 National College Health Assessment, 30 percent of students reported that stress had negatively affected their academic performance within the past year, and over 85 percent had felt overwhelmed by everything they had to do at some point within the past year.

"To be human is to experience stress" sources of student stress vary.

In addition to school-related stress, personal and environmental issues also affect students emotionally. While stress may seem inevitable, being proactive and taking advantage of campus resources can make it more manageable.

Come learn how to balance the multiple demands of life.

### Tips on dealing with post-election emotions

Many people have found the recent political campaigns and election to be dramatic and emotionally challenging. If you are experiencing distress or heightened stress here are some things you can do to feel better:

#### Stick to your routine:

Maintaining your regular schedule of activities and taking care of your usual responsibilities can help engage you and reestablish a sense of normalcy and regularity.

#### Take care of yourself:

You will feel better if you get enough sleep, eat properly and get regular exercise.

#### Engage in pleasurable and meaningful activities:

Take some time to do something you usually enjoy—take a walk, go to a movie, spend time with friends. Doing activities that help or support others can in-

crease your sense of well-being and enhance your optimism.

#### Limit your social media time:

Constantly checking news feeds or other social media can increase your tension. Set aside specific times to check news and social media. Too much time online also can interfere with getting enough sleep.

#### Limit substance use:

Drinking or partying to feel better might seem to help in the very short run but will leave you feeling depleted and lower.

#### Limit political debate and argument:

It's important to stay engaged and informed in the political process and the news—but keep it in balance. If it is stressing you out, then let some time pass or take a break.

#### Spend time with supportive friends and family:

Being with people who care

about you can help you feel safe and protected.

If you have tried these steps and are still feeling very stressed, down or despairing, you should consider getting help from a mental health professional.

The Counseling Center at NECC is here to support the personal, social and academic development of students.

All services are confidential, free and available to all NECC students. For an appointment call 978-556-3730 or email [counseling@necc.mass.edu](mailto:counseling@necc.mass.edu)

The Counseling Center says If you are feeling like you need immediate help, text "start" to 741-741.

If you are feeling as if you or someone you know is in immediate danger of self-harm, call 911 or go to your nearest hospital emergency room.

## Our long national nightmare

### Political science professor expresses opinion on the 2016 election results

By STEPHEN E. SLANER, Ed.D.

In August 1974, just after Watergate, President Gerald Ford declared that "our long national nightmare is over."

I'm afraid our long national nightmare is just beginning.

During the campaign, given the huge amount of polling data, it felt as though Trump's chances of winning amounted to a snowball's chance in hell. Nevertheless he is now President.

We should consider what—if anything—can be done about this situation.

And it is quite a situation.

Henry Giroux puts it in a nutshell: "Trump is not only a twisted caricature of every register of economic, political, educational, and social fundamentalism, he is the apogee of a warrior culture committed to rolling back civil rights, women's reproductive rights, and all vestiges of economic justice and democracy." (CounterPunch, November 11.)

To which can be added climate change denial and, most ominously, an increased probability of nuclear war.

I draw three lessons from the catastrophe: first, civic involvement is the key.

If more people of color had actually turned out, Trump might not be president. And if white people (yes, Trump got a majority of the white female vote) had educated themselves about what Trump actually stands for and what is in their own interest as part of the 99%, Trump might

not be President.

Second, the Democratic Party must become a small-d democratic party, to use Bernie Sanders' expression.

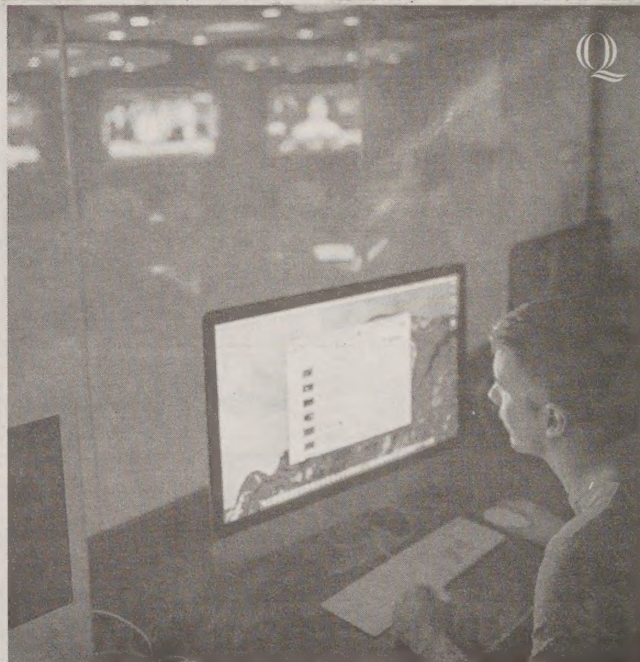
As Robert Reich argues, "Trump's victory only confirms that the Democratic Party as it stands is a corporate fundraising machine that doesn't speak to the needs of working people. We need to build a party that actually represents the working class." (In These Times, November 10.)

But remaking the Democratic Party requires intense activism at every level: local, state, national.

This kind of activism is the calling card of a strong Democratic nominee like Bernie Sanders, who might well have won this election had he been at the top of the ticket.

And third, the American people should resist any and all efforts by the new administration to continue and accelerate our conventional wars, not to mention provoking or threatening a nuclear war. This too requires activism.

I lived through the Cuban missile crisis, which is the closest mankind has come to extinction. Having unnecessarily provoked that crisis, President John F. Kennedy was skillful enough to maneuver out of it without getting us into war. Do you think President Donald Trump could do the same?



### Quinnipiac university

Hamden, Connecticut  
Arts and Sciences  
Business / Communications  
Education / Engineering  
Health Sciences / Law  
Medicine / Nursing

### Experience a program that gives your passion a platform.

Quinnipiac's world-sized classrooms blend rigorous academics and practical experiences to give your fire a focus, preparing you for a promising future in the real world. Attentive faculty create personalized, empowering opportunities for growth, through professional connections and a long record of success.

Join us at a Transfer Information Session:  
Thursdays 11/24 or 1/5

Or an Open House Saturday, 12/3

Explore your potential at [qu.edu](http://qu.edu)

# Sports

observer.necc.mass.edu @theneccobserver facebook.com/neccobserver

## 2016-17 Knights Basketball Preview

*Brand new faces headline upcoming basketball season.*

By KYLE BENSON  
Sports Editor

The Knights basketball team had a fairly successful season last year, finishing off the season with a winning record of 17-10. That record earned them third place in the Region, behind first place Bunker Hill Community College and second place Bristol Community College. The Knights home record was 7-6, their away record was a little better at 10-4.

"I knew from the beginning we had a special team, and with all the adversities that they faced this year, it's just amazing that they're finishing third in the region," athletic director Sue MacAvoy said after the season.

"I'm just proud of them, the way that they come together, that they stayed as a team. A loss of some very key players from the top scorer to I think one of our captains who just really kept them together because he had surgery on his leg."

The Knights were good enough to make it to the MCCAC tournament and the Region 21 playoffs. In the first game of the MCCAC tournament, NECC lost to Bristol CC 109-75. The loss knocked them out of the tournament.

After being bounced from the MCCAC tournament, it was on to the Region 21 playoffs for the Knights. Northern Essex met Springfield Tech in the first game of the playoffs, it was a close match that the Knights won 95-70. They made their way to the second game of the playoffs but weren't as fortunate as they were in the first game, as they were defeated 78-62 and were eliminated from the playoffs.

After a hard fought and impressive season, three Knights were named to the Region 21 All-Region team. Matt Jameson of Haverhill made it to the Second Team, while Lowell residents Dominic Dar and Kevin Brito made the Third Team.

This season the team will look totally different. The bulk of last year's team either graduated or transferred from Northern Essex,

leaving only a select few that will be returning this season. Also it will be head coach Joe Tardif's first full season leading the team. Tardif was appointed head coach early in the season after a coaching change after the first few games.

Their 2016-17 season starts at the NHTI Tip Off tournament on November 4 and then they go on the road to play Southern Maine Community College. The Knights won their only game against Southern Maine last season, 81-76. NECC's first home game is two days later against MassBay Community College. The team went 1-1 against MassBay last season.

Last season the Knights had their best games Springfield Tech, Roxbury Community College, Quinsigamond Community College, and UConn at Avery Point. NECC won each game they played against these teams in the regular season.

The upcoming campaign will be a learning season about building team chemistry. Once they build a familiarity with each other, then the winning will come.



Photo by Sue MacAvoy

NECC player, Felix Moore, who played last season will be back this season.

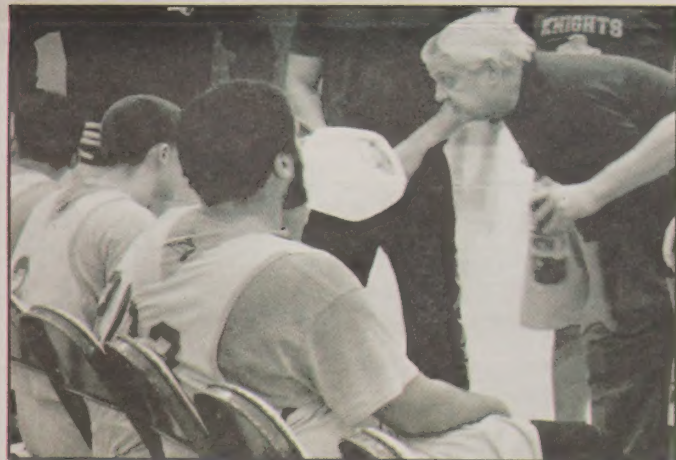


Photo by Sue MacAvoy

Coach Tardif giving the bench a pep talk.



Photo by Sue MacAvoy

Last year's team huddles up.

## Men's Basketball schedule

November 4+5 @ NHTI Tip Off Tournament (5:00 pm)  
November 8 @ Southern Maine CC (6:00 pm)  
November 10 vs MassBay CC (6:00 pm)  
November 12 vs Holyoke CC (12:00 pm)  
November 15 @ Massasoit CC (6:00 pm)  
November 17 @ Bristol CC (7:00 pm)  
November 19 vs UConn Avery Point (12:00 pm)  
November 22 @ Quinsigamond CC (5:00 pm)  
November 29 vs Roxbury CC (6:00 pm)  
December 1 vs Bunker Hill CC (6:00 pm)  
December 3 @ Springfield Tech CC (12:00 pm)  
December 10 @ Gateway CC (1:00 pm)  
January 14 @ UConn Avery AP (1:00 pm)  
January 16 vs Gateway CC (3:00 pm)  
January 19 vs CCRI (6:00 pm)  
January 24 @ Bunker Hill CC (6:00 pm)  
January 26 vs Quinsigamond (5:00 pm)  
January 28 vs Springfield Tech CC (12:00 pm)  
February 2 vs Massasoit CC (6:00 pm)  
February 7 @ Roxbury CC (6:00 pm)  
February 11 @ Holyoke CC (12:00 pm)  
February 16 @ MassBay CC (6:00pm)  
February 18 vs Bristol CC (12:00 pm)

# Sports

observer.necc.mass.edu @theneccobserver facebook.com/neccobserver

## My day with journalist Gordon Edes

*Edes invites fellow sports journalist for a personal tour*

By KYLE BENSON

Sports Editor

Back in early April of this year, the Boston Red Sox and multiple sports journalists held a "Journalism Night" at Fenway Park. The event information was sent to different colleges and programs, and the invitation ended up in my hands. As a journalist, more specifically sports, I had to go. It was promised that highly respected sports journalist such as Bob Ryan and Gordon Edes would be there, in addition to current Boston Herald, Boston Globe, and independent writers. I was most interested in seeing Ryan and Edes though.

The day of the event came and I was more than excited to get there. I figured I might be able to network with the speakers, as networking is crucial to finding any good job. When I got there the room was filled prospective journalists, including all the promised speakers at a table in the front. They started the event with Edes and Ryan speaking of the craft and their experiences in journalism. After a while there was a question and answer panel with speakers and when that ended, Edes and Ryan talked one-on-one with a lot of the people there, including myself.

I had the time of my life. I became so excited to further my career. I ended up writing an article for the Observer about the whole event and how great it was. It was a fairly successful piece and a good amount of people were excited for me. The best had yet to come, though.

In early September, I ended up getting an email from Edes him-

self. He had contacted my faculty adviser, Mary Jo Shafer, to get my email address because somehow he found my article about the event online and he liked it a lot. He told me it was a good piece and liked that I had such a good time at Journalism Night.

He then invited me to a personal tour of Fenway and to hang out for an afternoon with him once the Red Sox season ended. I instantly accepted. I couldn't stop smiling; it was a big deal for me. In October, the Red Sox season ended and we planned our afternoon for Nov. 2.

The day came and I couldn't have been happier. I got to Boston around noon and met up with Edes in his office at the park. He remembered me from the journalism event, so we already had a connection. We talked about the article from April, while I got to sit at his desk and then we started the tour. As we walked and talked I had so many questions for the sports journalist legend, like how he got into the journalism field.

"I used to go into the library at my high school and read the Globe sports section every day," he said. "I always liked to write and loved sports, so when our high school football coach asked me if I wanted to cover our school teams for the local paper, I jumped at the chance. Then, when I got a job at the Chicago Tribune as a copyboy in the newsroom while in college, I was hooked."

We went into rooms that only he and some other staff are allowed in and I even got to go into the team's locker room/clubhouse as they say in baseball.

It was made clear to not touch anything, and that was totally fine with me, I was just happy to be there. We ended up on the Green Monster seats at one point, a part of the park I had never sat in.

While looking out at the field, Edes brought up how I am a hockey guy and asked if I would be attending "Frozen Fenway" this winter. I told him it is a pricey event but he told me to email him before Frozen Fenway started up and he will hook me up with free tickets. He was making my day better and better as the day went on.

I remembered talking about the current state of journalism at the event back in April, so I brought it back up.

"It has undergone profound changes, obviously. As an old print guy, I lament the demise of newspapers and wonder where we are going to get the type of independent reporting so critical to our democracy," Edes said.

"On the flip side, I am so impressed by the talent displayed by a new wave of journalists on so many platforms. I just hope someone finds a sustainable economic model, online or otherwise, that will support the great work being done."

Edes had a 35-year career as a sportswriter before becoming the team historian for the Red Sox.

After the hour-plus long tour we decided to get lunch down the street at 'Game On.' When we got there, everyone in the restaurant greeted Edes and you could see how much respect everyone had for him. We had a good conversation and a great lunch.

After we finished lunch, we decided to part ways so I could catch a train to get home. We said that we will keep in contact, which made me happy because after spending a whole afternoon with him, I realized that he is a really good guy who is very smart and cares a lot about sports journalism like I do.



Photo by Kyle Benson

Benson and Edes at the Journalism Night.



Photo by Gordon Edes

Photo by Gordon Edes On Green Monster during personal tour of Fenway Park.

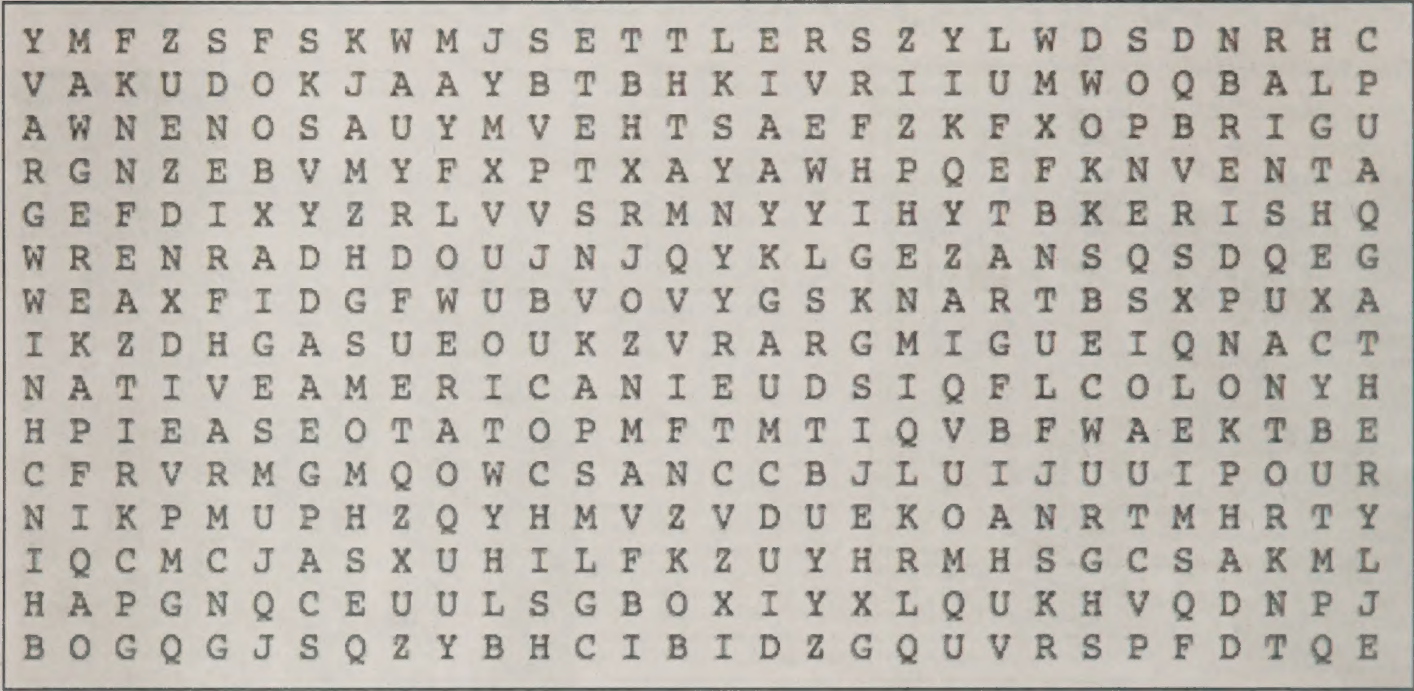


Sitting at Edes' desk in his office at Fenway Park.

# Just for Fun

[www.observer.necc.mass.edu](http://www.observer.necc.mass.edu) @theneccobserver facebook.com/neccobserver

## Word Search: Thanksgiving Day



Words may run in any direction, including up, down, backwards, and diagonally

- BLESSING  
COLONY  
FAMILY  
FEAST  
FOOD
- FRIENDS  
GATHER  
GRATEFUL  
GRAVY  
HARVEST
- HOLIDAY  
MAIZE  
MAYFLOWER  
NATIVEAMERICAN  
NOVEMBER
- PIE  
PILGRIMS  
POTATOES  
PUMPKIN  
SETTLERS
- SQUANTO  
SQUASH  
STUFFING  
THANKSGIVING  
TURKEY

## “It’s Kind of a Funny Story”

Book review of Ned Vizzini’s best seller novel.

By Bailey Torrisi  
Campus Life Editor

As an avid reader, I can honestly say this is one of the best books I’ve ever read. Ned Vizzini wrote this story about a teenage boy and the pressures he faces during high school, which lead to mental illness and hospitalization. It’s considered a teen novel, but also a comedy for the way Vizzini confronts a serious issue with humor.

I think this book highlights important issues that are rising in our country every day, teen mental illness, depression, and recovery. Craig, a 16-year-old boy living in New York faces difficult times such as suicidal thoughts, a slight eating disorder, not sleeping, etc. These are a lot of things high schoolers face now a days, and Vizzini does a great job confronting them.

A big common theme in the book is learning to be yourself. Craig had a few situations where peer pressure got the best of him.

But towards the end, he learned to be and love himself, and accept his differences. Craig knew he was different, and he always would be, but learning to accept this is a challenge we all face.

Craig sets a goal to work hard and get into this big prestigious school in New York. Once he gets in, he gets overwhelmed in the program. He turns to pot and partying with friends to try and get his mind off of school and calm him down. This mixed with stress, lack of sleep, and a formed eating disorder caused Craig to fall into deep depression along with anxiety. Craig is checked into a mental facility and here he begins his journey of self discovery, recovery, and even turning to art and making friends along the way.

This book confronts love issues, mental issues, anxieties, the stresses of high school and so many other things. It has such a good storyline and plot. I would highly recommend this to anyone with any interest in reading. I think it has such a good balance between the seriousness of these problems and trying to be funny in light of the situation.

Vizzini committed suicide a few years after writing the novel, so I think it has a lot of personal meaning. I think it has a special insight to suicide and mental illness. I think it’s an important topic of discussion that we don’t really know how to communicate. Our world has faced so many mental issues, and he brings a personal part to the novel.

“Insightful and utterly authentic... This is an important book.” said The New York Times Book Review. I couldn’t agree more. It’s such a real story and storyline you feel you’re a part of Craig’s life the entire time you’re reading. You just don’t want to put the book down. It was also chosen to be put on the list of Best Books for Young Adults by the American Library Association.

“A book about depression that’s not the least bit depressing,” Teen Vogue reported.

This book was later turned into a movie in 2010. The film is cast with Emma Roberts, Zach Galifianakis and stars Keir Gilchrist as Craig. “It’s Kind of a Funny Story” is an admirably empathetic movie...” says The New York Times movie review.



Photo Courtesy